



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Sen. Goschka Encourages Municipalities to Apply for Downtown Development Grant

MEDC Deadline for Application is April 25

(LANSING) – In a continued effort to impact the development and revitalization of Michigan’s traditional downtowns and commerce centers, state Senator Mike Goschka, R-Brant, today encouraged local municipalities to apply for the “Blueprints for Michigan Downtowns 2003” program.

“This is an excellent opportunity for local municipalities in Saginaw and Gratiot counties to revitalize and invigorate their downtown areas,” Goschka said. “I encourage all municipalities to apply for the grant in order to benefit their residents, families and to foster tourism in their areas.”

The program is a collaborative effort between the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC), the Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the Michigan Municipal League.

The prime objective of the Blueprints program is to develop an action strategy that will, over a five-year period of implementation time, move forward local community’s traditional downtown toward economic enhancement. Process of the program will be highly inclusive, will take approximately five months to complete, and will result in the issuance of an action strategy.

Any city, township or village that maintains an active downtown business organization and a traditional downtown or commerce center is eligible to apply. The deadline for applications is 5:00 p.m. April 25. Applicants are asked to submit five copies of their application to the group.

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According to the MEDC, successful applicants will provide the following:

- The municipalities elected body must pass a resolution pledging a 50 percent local match made payable to the MEDC before commencement of the application review process,
- A brief narrative identifying key community issues as they relate to the downtown's history, success, challenges and potential for future success,
- Commitment to setting up a Process Committee that will be prepared to actively meet with the application review group, help drive the process, provide significant volunteer hours during the planning process and remain intact, as an implementation, monitoring and reporting agent during the five years of implementation, and
- A map outlining the proposed downtown project area.

All applications will be reviewed by HyettPalma, Inc., a nationally recognized consulting firm that specializes in the economic enhancement of downtowns and older business districts.

Some ten communities will be selected, including three from a population size of under 7,500, four communities with a population size between 7,500 and 15,000, two communities will a population size of 15,000 to 30,000 and one community will a population above 30,000 citizens.

Interested communities may contact the MEDC's Community Assistance Team at 517-373-9808 with any questions or assistance.